AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A frame joint structure for a vehicle comprising:

a first frame member being U-shaped in cross section and having a first sidewall, a second sidewall, and a bottom wall and defining an opening;

a second frame member, similar to the first frame member, and being U-shaped in cross section and defining an opening, said second frame member having an end portion connected to at least one of the first and second sidewalls of the first frame member;

a reinforcing member extending into the first frame member and the second frame member by predetermined lengths at a joint of the first frame member and the second frame member;

a plate member closing the openings of the first and second frame members so as to form closed cross sections of the vehicle frame joint structure; and

a foamed resin filling spaces defined by the plate member, the first and second frame members and the reinforcing member, wherein the foamed resin results from foaming an unfoamed resin applied uniformly onto at least upper and lower surfaces of the reinforcing member.

2. (Previously Presented) The joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member is generally T-shaped.

3. (Previously Presented) The joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member is generally L-shaped.

4. (Previously Presented) The joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the plate member, the first frame member, and the second frame member are made from a first metal material while the reinforcing member is made from a second metal material, said first metal material being different than said second metal material.

5. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a frame joint structure, comprising the steps of:

welding an end portion of a second frame member of a U-shaped cross section having an opening to a first frame member of a U-shaped cross section having an opening so as to temporarily secure said first and second frame members together;

mounting a foam resin to a reinforcing member to be extended by predetermined lengths into the first frame member and the second frame member at a temporarily welded joint;

setting the reinforcing member mounted with the foam resin within the first frame member and within the second frame member;

closing the openings of the first and second frame members by a plate member so that the frame members have closed cross sections; and

heating and foaming the foam resin within the first and second frame

members.

6. (Withdrawn) The frame joint structure forming method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of applying a coat of paint to a surface of the plate member after the closed cross-section forming step, wherein the heat foaming step comprises heat drying of the applied paint.

7. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the plate member is generally planar.

8. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 7, wherein the plate member and the first and second frame members are formed from a first metal material and are affixed to one another by welding.

9. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 8, wherein the reinforcing member is formed from a second metal material, and wherein the reinforcing member is supported within the spaces by the foamed resin.

10. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 9, wherein the first metal material is different than the second metal material.

11. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 1, said second frame member having an end portion connected to one of the first and second sidewalls of the first frame member, and wherein said one of said first and second sidewalls of the

first frame member has a hole formed therein; and,

wherein said hole is larger than a cross-sectional dimension of said reinforcing member such that said reinforcing member may freely extend through the hole in the first frame member, and whereby a space surrounding said reinforcing member and said one of said first and second sidewalls of said first frame member at said hole being filled with said foamed resin.

12. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 11, wherein the plate member is generally planar.

13. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 12, wherein the plate member and the first and second frame members are formed from a first metal material and are affixed to one another by welding.

14. (New) The frame joint structure according to claim 13, wherein the reinforcing member is formed from a second metal material, and wherein first metal material is different than the second metal material.